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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SPORT MASKA INC.** [CA/CA]; 3500 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Suite 800, Westmount, Québec H3Z 3C1 (CA).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **MURPHY, Stephen** [CA/CA]; 483 Pierre-Boileau, Ile Bizard, Québec H9C

1T8 (CA). **PAGOTTO, John** [CA/CA]; 336 Woodlea Avenue, Montreal, Québec H3P 1R5 (CA). **BLOTTEAUX, Ray** [US/US]; 6066 Orchard Court, Ferndale, Washington 98248 (US). **ROTH, Justin** [CA/CA]; C/O Sport Mask Inc., 3500 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Suite 800, Westmount, Québec H3Z 3C1 (CA).

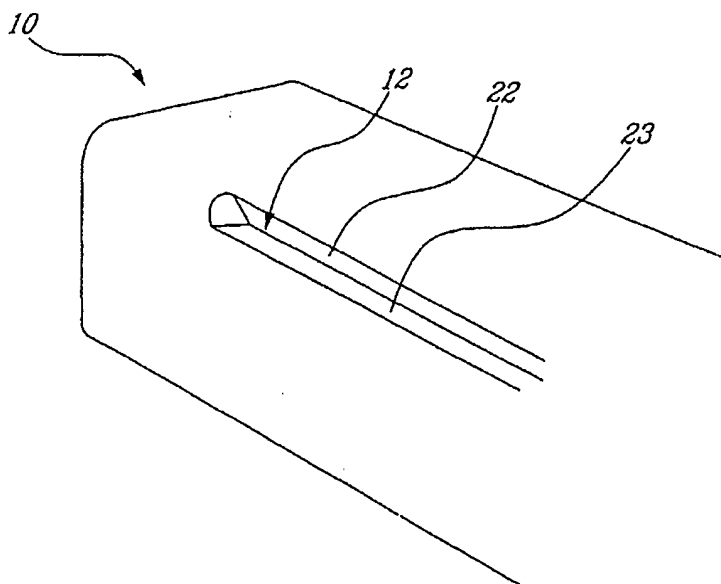
(74) Agent: **MCCARTHY TETRAULT LLP**; Daniel A. Artola, Le Windsor, 1170 Peel Street, Montreal, Québec H3B 4S8 (CA).

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(54) Title: **SPORTS APPARATUS SHAFT AND BLADE WITH ADDED IMPACT PROTECTION AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME**



(57) Abstract: The invention pertains to sports shafts to other sports equipment subjected to impact thereon. The longitudinal edges of the sports shaft are replaced with elastomeric material so as to create a series of bumpers along the longitudinal edges providing increased protection and longevity to the stick. The invention also pertains to the blade, as in hockey stick blade, wherein the top surface of the blade is provided with an elastomeric material so as to create a bumper on the top surface. The invention also pertains to a method of fabricating said sports shaft.

WO 2005/082470 A1



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